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TO THE
Most Serene and our Most dread Sovereign Lord
THE
King of Great Britain, &c.
AND
To His Great and Honourable COUNCIL,
THE
Lords Spiritual & Temporal,
In the High and Honourable Court of PARLIAMENT:
AND
To the truly Honourable
The Honourable House of COMMONS of ENGLAND
Assembled in PARLIAMENT.

The humble Petition of all the poor Confined decayed Freemen, and
Freemens Widows, Prisoners in Ludgate, London:

In all Humble obedience sheweth,

That in Ludgate Prison stands Committed above 250 Freemen and Widdows since the first of June 72. which is far above double the number ever detained in that Prison, whose numbers and sorrows daily increase (most or all having been sufficient Housekeepers, brought to decay by the General Calamities of the Nation, as namely the contagious Plague, the dreadful and consuming Fire, losses by Sea, the fruits and sad effects of War, decay of Trading; (And some for their Loyalty) and other losses: together by cruel and merciless dealings of Adversaries, occasioned by miserable times, Your Petitioners are cast into Prison, where they are in all likelihood in want and misery to end their days, during which their poor Wives and Children are exposed to extream hardship, want and misery, And some becoming burthensome to their Parishes; Others their Apprentices, and Sons forc'd through necessity home to their Relations and Friends. All which proves of sad Consequences to City and Countrey, others languish abroad, whilst their Husbands and Relations perish in Prison.

And for that Your poor imprisoned Petitioners being most Trades-men, might they enjoy their Liberty, could by their industry and labour maintain and support themselves and Families from being Chargeable to any, and again become Serviceable to Your Majesty and Kingdoms. But such Confinements do not only destroy all Prisoners and their Families, but also ruines other Families which depended upon and gain'd their daily bread by and under Your now distressed Petitioners brought to decay as aforesaid, and not able to pay their Debts.

And forasmuch as our Freedom and Redemption stands in the pleasure of Your most Sacred Majesty, and in both Your Majesties High and Honourable and Great Councils in Parliament, Your Petitioners in all obedience humbly Implore Your Majesty and both Your Honourable and Great Councils to permit and suffer the Cries of poor decayed Freemen and Widdows to be heard and entertained, so as to open Your Fatherly and Kingly Compassion towards them in some expedient manner, being the imprisoned (Freemen) of Your Majesties Great and Honourable City: who in all obedient manner humbly prays,

That Your Majesty would Graciously be pleased of Your wonted Goodness, Fatherly and Kingly Clemency, together with both Your Majesties Great and Honourable Councils in Parliament to commiserate and shew Your Compassions unto poor Confined Prisoners (as well Men as Women) who humbly beseech and Implore (for the Mercies of Christ,) That You would be pleased to issue forth Your Majesties most Gracious Act of Grace, to extend unto all poor Prisoners, so as that they may be forthwith discharged gratis from all Action and Actions, or any Writ, Attachment, Judgment, Executions, or any other Process of Law or Equity whatsoever, so to discharge all Prisoners who were Prisoners *Primo Feb 72*. And that Your most gracious Act of Graces may pass Apart forthwith for the releasements of all the Freemen and Widdows in the said Prison of Ludgate and the Jurisdiction of London Impoverished and Imprisoned as aforesaid within the Liberties of Your Majesties Great and Honourable City of London, which will be a remarkable kindness of Your Majesties and Honourable Councils Clemency to the Freemen of that City.

And Your Petitioners shall as in duty bound, ever pray, &c.

The Prisoners groans
for Deliverance.



P S A L. 44. 26.

Rise up for our Succour, And
Redeem us for thy mercies
sake.